many years. Government fully realise the force of this argument. It has therefore been decided that acting service *per se* will not entitle any person to any preferential treatment. When the turn for any community comes acting hands belonging to that community will get preferential treatment over new applicants belonging to the same community. It is intended to bring this scheme into operation early in 1112. I hope that with the introduction of this scheme there would be greater contentment amongst all classes of His Highness' subjects in the matter of getting opportunities for entering the public service and that we shall not have complaints of discrimination directed against any community. I hope that this solution will bring in communal peace and harmony.

Questions and Answers.

Stipends—Education Department—Delay in disbursement of.

1. **Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the attention of the Director of Public Instruction has been drawn to the hardships caused to poor students who get their stipends after the fees days;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what action has been taken?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—(a) No complaint of a general nature has been brought to the notice of the Department since 1105.

(b) A circular was issued in 1105 asking the heads of schools to submit the scholarship and stipend bills *precisely* on the 1st of every month so that the bills may be cashed and the amount disbursed before the fee date. Whenever specific complaints were received after that the heads of schools have been warned to be careful to avoid delay.

Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—Were any complaints received from the College students?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—I remember the case of one college student. The difficulty in that case was that money had to be sent outside the State which means the forwarding of the bill to the Comptroller, getting a cheque and sending it registered to Madras or elsewhere, and that is the only case.

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Mr. Shabdai S. Koder.—Was there any instance of delay in the case of students studying in schools in the State?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—Is it not for the Government to make such arrangement as would ensure the stipend going into the hands of the students a few days before the fees days?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—This difficulty has been anticipated and a strict circular has been issued to Heads of schools. In spite of that, it is possible that a case may arise where as I said the stipend has to be paid to a student residing outside the State and therefore they have made the delay. Therefore, every possible means are being adopted to see that the stipends reach the students in time.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Hon'ble Member kindly inform the House whether the circular which he mentions has been obeyed by the school authorities?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—If there were infractions, the matter would have been brought to the notice of the department. Except the case that I have mentioned, I do not remember to have received any complaint.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—After receiving this question, had the Hon'ble Member any occasion to enquire whether this circular was mostly obeyed?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—There is no point in making any enquiry after the receipt of this question. If any case of infraction has been brought to the notice of the department the person responsible for such infraction has been seriously dealt with.

Educational facilities—Akathiyoor Village.

2. **Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty.**— Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there is any school at Akathiyoor village;

(b) the nearest school for the Akathiyoor village;

(c) the distance from Akathiyoor to the school mentioned in (b)?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon.—(a) No.

(b) M. K. M. School, Porkalam.

(c) A mile and a half.

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